

## A CLIMAX IN LUXURY

Season's Rare Furs Mark a High Tide in Dress.

## SEVERAL FUR COATS NEEDED

One Not Enough for the Woman of Many Clothes.

Wraps of Different Weights Required in Winter—Different Costumes Must Also Be Sifted—Many Problems of the Fur Coat—This Year It May Be of Economical Broadtail or Fashionable Chinchilla or Costly Sable; May Be Simply Trimmed or as Elaborate and Perishable as an Evening Gown—Varieties of the Fur and Their Special Merits—Muffs Bigger and Flatter—Sealskin.

The number of fur coats, neck furs and muffs included in the fashionable woman's outfit nowadays is limited only by the woman's liking for fur and the resources of her pocketbook.

The fur coat for general wear still exists.



**BROADTAIL, PELLERINE AND MUFF.**  
In fact it is still the cornerstone of the foundation of the furrier's trade, for the woman whose needs it meets is legion, while even in this country of big fortunes the woman who can recklessly indulge a taste for handsome furs is the exception. But one has only to look through the stocks of the most popular dealers in fine furs to realize that the demand for costly fur garments has increased marvellously within recent years.

Shrewd New York merchants do not lay in extravagant supplies of commodities not likely to find ready sale, and this fall the furriers are showing quantities of fur models at prices which even a few years ago would have appalled many women who now regard them tranquilly. Women have been educated to furs, and when one says that one implies that the high tide of luxury in



**SHORT ERMINE JACKET.**  
feminine dress has been reached; for the woman wrapped in rare furs gives an impression of exotic luxury which the woman hung with diamonds may be unable to suggest. After all, provided there is any excuse at all for extravagance in dress, there is more reason in the possession of a number of fur coats than in many a feminine fancy. First, there is the matter of weight.

In this climate and throughout much of this country there is no guarantee that when winter wakes its appearance on the calendar it inaugurates an unvarying succession of cold days until March ushers in the spring months. Our climatic temperature is variable, and there is much winter weather during which garments of sealskin, mink, sable or other very warm furs are intolerable.

Yet even in such weather a change to an



**ERMINE JACKET AND MUFF.**  
ordinary cloth coat is likely to mean discomfort. Let any fair-minded woman who lived through the days of the seal-skin, saquin and testify to the suf-

fering she endured in that coat during the mid-days and the colds she owed to wearing it until she was overhauled or leaving it off in favor of a wrap inadequately warm.

Morover the purpose for which the coat is to be worn, as well as the weather, has much to do with the fur chosen. The warm coat worn for motoring or driving is often too warm for walking and too heavy as well. The fur coat worn with a walking gown is not appropriate with evening attire and yet if one wears fur all day and puts it aside at night to don a thinner wrap over a light and probably décolleté one is courting pneumonia.

Oh, there are innumerable problems circling round about the fur coat, and the only women not bothered by them are those who have no fur coat at all and those who can buy as many as they want.

If but for one fur coat for general utility purposes is to be selected, the first choice among expensive furs will probably be

coat and somewhat limits its usefulness. There is considerable braiding, too, upon the season's furs, as well as strappings in satin and in cloth; and though many critics contend that such trimming detracts from the effectiveness of handsome fur, it often adds much smartness to models in the utility furs we have been considering.

Braided cloth or velvet is often used for waistcoats, revers, cuffs, etc., and handsome old broadtails are considered very chic for waistcoats in association with fur, while hand embroidery or satin, velvet or cloth is extremely modish.

Many of the practical fur coats for street wear are finished with high, straight collars which are really narrow scarfs and knot under the chin or are held there by ornaments. These being attached to the coat at sides and back are snugger and warmer than separate scarfs, and when neck protection is not needed the little scarf collar will turn down flatly.

models for furs of this weight, and the huge pelerine stole and muff of white ermine trimmed in tails is a superb set for wear with handsome visiting costumes.

Baby lamb is made up in many odd shapes, its remarkable lightness permitting it to be handled as one might handle velvet; but this fur is seldom becoming when worn next the face, and if chosen for a neck and muff set should, as in the set shown here, be left open to show lace or net.

Muffs are bigger, softer and flatter than ever, and though an effort has been made to bring back the huge round muffs it has so far met with but little success. The flat muffs, while quite as extravagant, are more easily handled and less bulky and for these reasons women cling to them.

Many heads and tails are used in trimming muffs and neck furs, and many fanciful combinations of fur and lace, fur and velvet, fur and satin, fur and heavily embroidered net are shown in the small furs. A long,

cussion. They deserve a column of their own and are the last word of reckless luxury for an all fur garment, if handsome, promises many seasons of wear, while one of the magnificent models in which fur is only one of many beauties is a thing of a season.

It is even to be doubted whether these trimmed cloaks have the real beauty of the plainer garments. Certainly no trimming can improve sable.

It is at its best when made up without anything to distract attention from the beauty of the fur and trimming it is but gilding refined gold and painting the lily. Fine mink too demands no relief, and among the most sumptuous fur cloaks of the year are long loose cloaks in these soft brown furs, graceful of line and cleverly handled, so that the marking of the fur accentuates the becoming lines.

Some of these models have large, loose sleeves of kimono suggestion, slit up the

upon which Parisian furriers have elaborated numerous variations, but it must be admitted that the results are more original than becoming or practical.

One handsome but bizarre coat of ermine has a wide stole front drooping low on the shoulders and very wide all through its length. The back, however, was much shorter than the front and instead of falling straight from the shoulders was shaped somewhat to the figure. Back and front were held together below the armholes and at the hip line by bands of ermine finished at each end with little beads. This garment was of course sleeveless and open both sides, left much to be desired in point of warmth, although it provided plenty of warmth where warmth was most needed.

For an evening wrap anything lovelier than a loose long kimono-like coat of ermine, untrimmed save for touches of embroidered velvet at the throat and perhaps on the sleeves, it would be hard to find. As has been said before, there are wonderful creations in which ermine is combined with lace and embroidered nets, but a coat of the type represented by the ermine model of the central cut has an elegance to which no elaboration can add.

For young girls similar coats are made up in coneys, and while by comparison with the ermine very inexpensive, they are effective, becoming and costly enough to command respect.

White caracul is another inexpensive fur that works up well in the evening coat, and some delightfully youthful little boleros and pony coats with embroidered velvet waistcoats, collars and cuffs are offered in this fur. We have seen a little French visiting costume of creamy chiton cloth trimmed in heavy flint not embroidered by hand in shiny white and natter blue floss and bordered by bands of white caracul. With this frock went a most attractive short coat of the caracul touched with natter blue velvet embroidered in darker and lighter shades of blue and in an odd golden yellow.

Sealskin is having greater vogue than in any recent season, although last winter in Paris furriers were pushing this practical, beautiful but long neglected fur. No fur is more becoming, and while its suppleness and short, close pile make it available for many purposes it is warmer and more durable than any of the other short hair furs that may lay claim to being of the highest class.

Long, loose coats of the modified kimono type in sealskin are well liked, and some of these models show facings and collars of ermine or possibly of rich, heavy lace, while others have only very beautiful buttons or possibly a neck finish of embroidery on velvet or satin.

## TREED BY A TIGRESS.

Unexpected Meeting on a Jungle Pathway in India.

From the Madras Mail.  
I was patrolling the jungle paths between two of my chowkies, accompanied by my jemadar, and on approaching an exceptionally thick patch we were startled by hearing a tiger roar almost at our feet. I coughed loudly to let him know that we were near, but judging by the growl he was disposed to dispute the right of way.

As we were unarmed swift retreat was the only way to escape the danger. I saw a tree, up which I "climbed" till some twenty feet from the ground, but on looking round for my jemadar I found he was making frantic efforts to climb one, but slipped to the bottom after each endeavor. So I called him to my perch, and had just hauled him up when a fine tigress emerged from the jungle, followed by two small cubs.

She passed under our tree and sauntered into the thicket, but reappeared a few minutes later, without the cubs, and remained watching us for some time, apparently considering if it was worth while to claw us out of our perches. After some embarrassing moments productive of the bluest of finks she disappeared, and my jemadar, who had been dumb while the interview lasted, found his voice, and gave tongue in the most agonizing yell to the rest of our party, who were close behind, to come to our assistance.

No one, however, appeared, and it is well they did not, as the tigress would probably have attacked them. After remaining in the tree for an hour or so we descended and saw no more of our unwelcome visitor.

Frankness in Invitations.

From the Windsor Magazine.

Among curiosities which are models of frankness is the following:

"Lord and Lady Spencer request the honor of your company at dinner at half past six o'clock on —"

An answer is particularly desired. Nobody waited for after 7 o'clock? On the other hand, the time was of course stated and "A polite answer, requested," or sometimes "A reply would oblige," but the letters "were hardly ever used at this date, their first mention being in 1781, on the card of Lord and Lady Kerry. Indeed, the only answer which will oblige" was the most general formula, and it is only in the last thirty years that the French form has been at all generally adopted in this country.

## ALEXANDRA'S MAIDS OF HONOR.

Four of Them, All Young and Pretty—Their Duties at Court.

From The-Bell.

Queen Alexandra's household consists of only fifteen ladies and six men, in striking contrast with that of the King, who has more than a hundred individuals.

Queen Victoria had eight maids of honor, of whom two were always in waiting, but Queen Alexandra's known desire for a less stately life has prompted her to reduce the number to four.

Queen Alexandra delights to surround herself with quite young, bright and clever people, and all four maids are still in their early youth.

The tradition is that these young women invariably marry well.

Their position at court brings them into contact with highly eligible partners, and an old custom dating back for centuries prompts their royal mistress to provide a dowry of £1,000 on their wedding day. The marriage of one of the maids of honor is a great event in the London season.

When the Queen holds a drawing room for the presentation of debutantes and those who have entrée at court her maids walk in the royal procession to the throne room and stand immediately around her Majesty during the whole ceremony.

This applies also to the state concerts, which are most formal and elaborate functions, beginning at 10 o'clock at night and lasting two hours. They must also be in readiness at any time to play duets with the Queen, a dreadful ordeal to even great artists, as she is a brilliant player.

Then there are charity visits, schools to be inspected, and a multitude of royal duties, in all of which the Queen is accompanied by her ladies. At all these functions the Queen's maids are almost painfully alert to anticipate the slightest wish of their mistress. At the concerts they do not stand, but sit immediately behind the Queen and Royal Princesses.

At state balls they occupy the same position. They relieve her Majesty of her bouquet or her fan if necessary, and adjust her great ermine cloak or sable wraps when draughty corridors are traversed or on the staircases. They are in attendance at all state and public ceremonies, and when driving, as to the opening of a charity bazaar, to the railway station and other places, one of the girls has a seat in a carriage immediately preceding that of the Queen.

The duties of these four young ladies in waiting begin immediately after her Majesty's breakfast. One or more of them assist Miss Knollys in answering the mass of correspondence, which requires the ability of a linguist. Then they must be in readiness to sing or to play if required, or to take expeditions on horseback, an exercise of which her Majesty is fond, and they must necessarily have a good seat and be adept whips.

They must be skilled in some of her Majesty's special skills, such as wood carving, fine art needlework, spinning and poker work. They must be tactful at all times, amiable, and, in fact, almost absolute paragons.

Their meals are taken with the lords and ladies of the household, unless they are required to join the royal family at luncheon or dinner. Nine o'clock is the hour for dinner, and one of the maids of honor just before it must place on the table at the right hand of the Queen her bouquet. After dinner the maids join the royal circle. They enter into the amusements and may be asked to show their accomplishments.

At other courts, it is said, the régime is still the reverse of pleasant. In Austria an imperial or royal visit to the opera, theatre or some such function is regarded as a particular penance and a severe trial of the patience and endurance of the ladies in waiting. They are compelled to stand through the long performance and to bear all the discomfort with a smiling countenance, as do the acrobats and dancers who appear on the stage.

The late Empress of Austria had a decided fondness for Wagner, and it can be well imagined what a store when either "Siegfried" or "Tristan" was sung. In Spain, too, the etiquette of the court is very severe.

Florida Pensioners.

From the Jacksonville Times Union.

The State of Florida paid out in pensions to Confederate veterans and the widows of veterans \$2,000,000 during the month of October. This exceeded any previous month by about \$22,000. Several thousands of dollars remain yet to be paid before the end of the quarter.

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ERMINE STOLE AND MUFF, CHINCHILLA JACKET WITH EMBROIDERED VELVET VEST AND TWO CLOAKS, ONE OF SABLE AND ONE OF ERMINE.

broadtail. It will not wear extraordinarily well though much more durable than baby lamb; but with a little repairing each season it will do, and any fur coat worn constantly needs repairs each season.

Broadtail is handsome enough for dressy wear yet not out of place with morning costume, and it is of a medium weight, so that, while warm, it will not be found so oppressive as mink, sable, &c.

Less costly and handsome than broadtail, but possessing many of the same virtues, are the caracul and the pony skins. These last have reached a point of excellence this year which removes many of the objections previously urged against them.

Cheap ponyskin is still stiff and unattractive, but furriers have learned to cure and dye these skins so that the best pony skins to-day are remarkably supple and lustrous, and the Parisian designers are making much of this fur.

Caracul, too, has reached a point of perfection within its possibilities and at its best is really a very attractive fur. It is used in brown and in white as well as in black, and for youthful wearers coats of fine brown caracul are extremely smart and almost invariably becoming.

Street coats of broadtail, caracul, &c., vary in length and cut, but are in a majority of cases semi-fitting, whether long, medium or short. The pony coat, paletot and bolero are all revived, but for walking costumes a half length coat, suggesting the curves of the figure, yet loosely fitting and minimizing the size of the hips by its easy lines at the waist, is perhaps the first favorite.

There are close fitting models, too, in half, three-quarter and hip lengths; but they are less kind to the defective figure than the semi-fitting coats, and the woman who in defiance of fashion's autocratic ruling this fall has pronounced hips and bust must do everything she can to gain an appearance of uniform slenderness.

Handsome waistcoats are introduced in many of the broadtail, caracul and pony coats, but of course an elaborate waistcoat gives at once a more dressy character to the

Small cravats and similar neck furs seem to have given way to stoles and scarfs of ample size, and the most fashionable of the season's fur neckpieces lie well out over the shoulders and fall low in front, affording much warmth when worn over a cloth or velvet coat. A few models of the new shapes are pictured among the cuts, but the variety is endless, and many of the handiwork neckpieces owe their cachet to the beauty of the fur, rather than to originality in its shapings.

Fine sable, mink or fox skins are made

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